

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

O N T H E

H E A L T H A N D S A N I T A R Y C O N D I T I O N

O F T H E

U R B A N D I S T R I C T O F L I T T L E L E V E R

F O R T H E Y E A R

1945

LITTLE LEVER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1945

Medical Officer of Health (Part time)

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OTHER OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Clerk and Accountant

WILLIAM KELLY

Surveyor

JOHN TOPHAM

Collector

WILLIAM KELLY

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Urban District of Little Lever for the year 1945

To the Chairman and Members of the
Little Lever Urban District Council:

I have pleasure in submitting for your approval, my Report as Medical Officer of Health on the health and sanitary conditions of Little Lever for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

The area of the township is 808 acres. The estimated population is 4,325 compared with 4,944 in the 1931 census. There are 1,527 inhabited houses in the district as against 1,544 in 1944, and 1,443 in the 1931 census. This gives a rate of approximately three persons per house. The rateable value of the district is £20,776, and the sum raised by a penny rate is approximately £78. Social conditions are fairly good. There is no great volume of unemployment. The district is mostly industrial in character, the chief industries being coal-mining, cotton weaving, paper-making, chemical manufacturing, the manufacture of plastics and ebonite, and dairy-farming.

Births

The number of live births registered in 1945 was 74, as against 98 in 1944. This figure is made up of 43 males (1 illegitimate) and 31 females. The birth rate is 17.1 per 1,000 of population, compared with 22.6 in 1944, and a mean rate of 16.6 for the previous five years. The birth rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 16.1.

Still Births

There were no still births in the district in 1945, thus giving a rate of Nil per 1,000 of total births as compared with a rate of 49 in 1944.

Deaths

The number of deaths from all causes in 1945 was 62 (36 males and 26 females). This is an increase of 2 on the figure for 1944. The death rate for 1945 is 14.3 per 1,000 of population as against 13.8 in 1944 and a mean rate of 13.5 for the previous five years. The death rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 11.4.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of children under one year in 1945 was 2, both males. This is a decrease of 3 on the figure for 1944, and is equal to a rate of 27 per 1,000 of live births as against 51 in 1944, and a mean rate of 46 for the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 46.

Maternal Mortality

Once again there were no maternal deaths in 1945, thus giving a Nil rate per 1,000 of total births, the same as in 1944, and a mean rate of Nil for the previous five years. The Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales in 1945 was 1.79.

Midwifery Services

There are no resident midwives in the district. Three midwives on the list of midwives engaged by the County Council reside in Farnworth, and are available for the Little Lever area. Each one is readily accessible, as all three are on the telephone and have cars. The service provided has been very efficient and satisfactory. Many of the maternity cases in the district were admitted to Townleys Hospital, Farnworth, but a good proportion of the confinements took place in the homes of the patients.

General Provision of Health Services for the District

<u>Clinics and Treatment Centres</u>	<u>Situation</u>	<u>Provided by</u>
Maternity and Child Welfare	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.
Tuberculosis	Farnworth	Lancashire C.C.
School Clinics	Little Lever	Lancashire C.C.
Venereal Diseases	Bolton	Lancashire C.C.

Infectious Diseases

The following table gives an analysis of the cases of Infectious Diseases during 1945:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Cases</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Sent to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths in Hospital</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	38	11	27	13	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	3	1	2	3	Nil	Nil
Measles	112	50	62	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	21	11	10	Nil	Nil	1
Acute Pneumonia	2	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	2	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil
	178	74	104	16	Nil	1

Tuberculosis

New cases and Mortality during 1945:-

<u>Age periods</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0 to 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & upwards	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	2	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Totals:	3		-		2		-	

The death rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System in 1945 was 0.46 per 1,000 of population, as against 0.23 in 1944, and a mean rate of 0.40 for the previous five years.

Causes of Death

The following table shows the deaths from all causes in 1945:-



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<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Whooping Cough	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Influenza	-	1	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	2	1	3
Cancer of Breast	-	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	-	1	1
Diabetes	-	1	1
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	1	1	2
Heart Disease	19	10	29
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	3
Bronchitis	4	4	8
Congenital Malformations, etc.	1	-	1
Violent Causes (excluding Road Traffic Accidents)	2	1	3
All other causes	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>6</u>
	36	26	62

There were five deaths from Cancer and Malignant Disease in 1945, compared with seven in 1944. This gives a death rate of 1.15 per 1,000 of population, as against 1.61 in 1944, and a mean rate of 2.06 for the previous five years.

Opthalmia Neonatorum

No cases of this disease were notified during 1945.

District Nursing Association

The District Nursing Association employs one Nurse, and is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. As a result of this, the Nurse's work is periodically inspected by an official from the County Nursing Association. The work of the Nurse during 1945 has been extremely good and deserving of the highest commendation. The Committee have again worked hard, and, backed up by the general public, have maintained the sound position of the Association.

Hospital Accommodation

The Council have an agreement with the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board for the reception and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases. Beds are available, as required, at the following Institutions:-

Small-pox Hospital, Ainsworth - for cases of Small-pox

Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury - for other Infectious Diseases

Both Hospitals are controlled by the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, and the retaining fees payable by the Council are:-

Small-pox - £20 per annum

Other Diseases - £25 per annum

An Ambulance is provided by the Joint Board for the conveyance to the Hospitals of patients suffering from Infectious Diseases. The service provided has been very satisfactory.

Voluntary Hospitals Arrangements

The Council subscribe the following amounts:-

Bolton Royal Infirmary	-	£10.10.0d per annum
Manchester and Salford Medical Charities Fund	-	£30. 0.0d per annum
Little Lever District Nursing Association	-	£13.13.0d per annum

The Council have an agreement with the Borough of Farnworth whereby the latter provide an ambulance service for conveying patients from the district to the various hospitals. This service has functioned in a very efficient manner during 1945.

Adoptive Acts in Force

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1890, Part 4
Public Health Acts (Amendment Act) 1907, Parts 2 and 4
Public Health Acts 1925, Part 2, except Sections 22 and 25

Sanitary Accommodation

The types of Sanitary Accommodation, with the numbers of each type at the end of 1945 were as follows:-

Privy Middens	14
Closets attached to these Middens	21
Pail Closets	6
Waste Water Closets	99
Fresh Water Closets	1,338
Movable Ashbins for refuse	1,443
Dry Ashpits (excluding Middens)	48
Number of houses on Water Carriage System	1,512

During the year, two privy closets were converted to pail closets.

Sanitary Inspections

The number of premises visited during 1945 was 122. As a result of these visits for the purpose of sanitary inspections, 92 nuisances were discovered. Of these, 52 were abated through the issuing of 44 Informal Notices. No Statutory Notices were needed, and no legal proceedings were taken.

Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found to be in a fair condition. Some dairies and cowsheds require attention as soon as labour and materials become available. There are 8 dairy farms in the area, with approximately 130 cows between them. Fourteen samples of milk were taken for testing as to Tuberculosis. Of these, two were positive. In addition, five samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and of these, two were found to be unsatisfactory. Appropriate measures were taken to remedy this state of affairs.

Factories and Workshops have been inspected from time to time, and found to be in a satisfactory state.

Food shops have also been inspected, and in one case, an improvement in the sanitary accommodation was effected.

Water Supply

The water supply is from the Irwell Valley Water Board's mains, and is constant. All houses are directly connected, the number of houses with piped supplies being 1,527. No extensions were carried out during 1945.

Sewage Disposal

Sewage disposal was quite satisfactory during 1945. The sewage is treated by settlement tanks and percolating filters. No extensions were carried out during the year, but repairs to a sedimentation tank were carried out. Samples of the effluent have been tested periodically by the Inspectors of the Lancashire Rivers Board, and all have been classed as satisfactory. One area, Leadbeater Fold, is still without an efficient drainage system, but is to be dealt with under a Clearance Order as soon as it is practicable.

The sewers have been flushed and the manholes cleaned from time to time during the year.

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House refuse and the contents of privy closets are collected each fortnight by the Council's covered motor wagon, and the refuse is disposed of by tipping on waste land.

Smoke Abatement

The Council are members of the Manchester Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. The time limit for the omission of black smoke is two minutes per hour. Owing to war conditions, no observations were taken during the year, but no flagrant breaches of the rule have been noted.

Housing

No new houses were erected during 1945.

Number of Houses owned by Local Authority

1.	Under 1919 Scheme	-	113
2.	Under Housing Act, 1923	-	11
3.	Under Housing Act, 1924	-	122
4.	Erected during 1936	-	30
5.	Erected during 1937	-	38
6.	Erected during 1938	-	<u>34</u>
			348

Housing Conditions

Housing conditions are reasonably good, and the general standard of housing is satisfactory. The prevalent type of house is the four-roomed cottage, of which there are about 900 in the district. Of these, there are at least 200 which fall far below the general standard. The chief defects found are dampness, low ceilings, old age, absence of bathrooms, poor sanitary conveniences and bad siting. Many of the houses are in drab rows, with a complete absence of pleasant outlook, and with insufficient access to sunlight. They are relics of the Victorian Age when cheapness was the first consideration of the builder, and consideration of the welfare of the tenants was completely disregarded. There is no real overcrowding in the district, but many families are very much in need of an extra bedroom. In many instances, a family growing not only in years, but also in numbers, finds itself with only two bedrooms, with the result that segregation of the sexes is an insuperable problem.

A housing scheme of 26 houses was planned for 1939, with the intention of re-housing families whose houses had been included in Clearance Areas. The war, of course, put a stop to this, and thus several condemned houses are still tenanted, and naturally are in much worse condition than in 1939. It is, however, hoped that the year 1946 will see the scheme proceeded with.

Town Planning

The Council are members of the Bolton and District Regional Planning Committee, and representatives from the Council serve on this Committee, and report back to the Council. The relationship between the Council and the Planning Committee is a very close and harmonious one, and the Council always endeavour to fit their schemes in with the regional plans.

Disinfection

The number of houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases was 41. The method used is Formic Aldehyde in the sealed room of the house. In addition, six houses, one of which was a Council house, were treated for eradication of bed bugs.

Public Health Laboratory

One swab from a suspected case of Diphtheria was sent for examination, but the result was negative.

Diphtheria Immunisation

More progress in the immunising of children was made in 1945. The total number immunised was 74, which is less than the figure for 1944, when 90 were immunised. Of the number(74) there were 71 pre-school children, and 3 school children. The figures of children immunised up to the end of 1945 are as follows:-

Pre-school children	426
School children	589

Immunisations are carried out by the Medical practitioners in the district, the prophylactic used being Alum Precipitated Toxoid provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester.

Of the three cases of Diphtheria notified, one was found not to be Diphtheria. The other two cases were girls aged 11 years and 1 year, and neither had been immunised.

There are still many parents who do not realise the advantages of immunisation, and who either do not, or will not appreciate the dangers of Diphtheria, and in consequence, many children have not yet been immunised. However, efforts are constantly being made to contact these parents in order to persuade them to have their children immunised.

General Observations

The general health of the district during 1945 was reasonably good. The number of live births was considerably less than the figure for 1944, whilst the number of deaths was slightly larger than in 1944. However, the birth-rate compares very favourably with the figure for England and Wales, but the death rate compares rather unfavourably with the figure for the whole country. The Infantile Mortality rate is much less than that for England and Wales, whilst the Maternal Mortality rate again gives cause for satisfaction.

There was an epidemic of Measles during the year, and a big increase in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever. Most of the cases of Measles and Scarlet Fever were in the 1 to 10 years of age groups. Practically all the cases were of a mild type, and there were no serious after-effects. The number of cases of Whooping Cough was considerably less than in 1944. The total number of cases of Infectious Diseases was far higher than in 1944 (178 as against 93) but of this number, Measles and Scarlet Fever together accounted for 150.

There is again, owing to the war, no progress to be reported in the matter of housing and sanitation. The paramount needs of the district remain, as before, in the provision of many more houses of modern design, in planned layouts, the demolishing of a good many of the old houses, and improvements in the road system. With the war successfully concluded in 1945, we can look ahead to the tasks that need attention. Having regard to the urgent problem of the country's population, one cannot too strongly emphasise the necessity for providing houses which lend themselves to the raising of healthy children. Certain it is that far too many of the houses in the district are in no way fitted for families of more than two children, and even then, are quite unsuitable for bringing up the children in a healthy environment.

Other pressing needs of the district are the providing of more recreational facilities for both children and adults, such as football and cricket pitches, tennis courts and another bowling green. The single bowling green and playing field provided by the local authority have proved most useful and beneficial, but are not adequate for the district.

The Clinics and Treatment Centres provided by the County Council have once again proved a boon to the district, but the present Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic is totally unsuitable for the purpose and needs to be replaced as soon as possible by a modern clinic.

W. MOTTERSHEAD, M.B.,Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

23rd July, 1946.

